

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

- 1 - 26. (Cancelled)
27. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the transduction efficiency of transduction of a nucleotide sequence of interest recombinant-virus into a target cell ~~a recombinant virus into a cell~~, comprising:
- (a) providing a recombinant adenovirus comprising a relaxin-encoding nucleotide sequence which is operatively linked to a regulatory sequence directing its expression, and a nucleotide sequence of interest to be delivered into the target cell; and
- (b) contacting the recombinant adenovirus virus with the target cell for the recombinant adenovirus to infect the target cell, wherein ~~the recombinant virus comprises a relaxin-encoding nucleotide sequence operatively linked to a regulatory sequence directing its expression and the relaxin protein expressed from the infected target cell~~ thereby enhances the efficiency of transduction of the recombinant adenovirus virus into the target cell.
28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein the target cell is a cell in a tissue composed of cells interconnected to each other by an extracellular matrix.
29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein the tissue is a tumor tissue.

30-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27 ~~claim 34~~, wherein the recombinant adenovirus comprises a deleted E3 region and the relaxin-encoding nucleotide sequence is inserted into the deleted E3 region.

33-38. (Cancelled)